Monsanto

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE & ENVIRONMENT HEALTH

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June 10, 1986

Kathleen Gallagher
Northwestern University Medical School
Department of Medicine
W.G. Krummrich Study
215 E. Chicago Avenue, Suite 801
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Kathleen:

Enclosed are the work histories for all Krummrich hourly employees who were included in the exposed study population of the Northwestern/Monsanto health study. The work histories (or MEHI header and work records) are stored on an IBM standard labelled, nine-track computer tape with the following specifications:

DSN of file 1 = MEH.NWSTUDY.EXPHEAD (1,133 header records)
DSN of file 2 = MEH.NWSTUDY.EXPWR1 (26,314 work records)
VOL/SER = 983355
EBCDIC
DEN = 4 (6250 BPI)
LRECL = 80
BLKSIZE = 6160
RECFM = FB

Please note that the header and work records are stored in separate files on the computer tape.

To help you understand our coding scheme, I have enclosed a record layout for the header and work records and a printout of the header and work records for four of the employees whose work histories are included on the tape. The header records that have been sent to you contain two additional fields that we usually do not capture on this record. The two extra fields are an status eligibility code, as of the study end date (12/31/83), and the termination date. The other field (columns 70-71) labelled status eligibility code represents the current status of the employee, although the employee's status may have changed within the last few months. The status eligibility code, as of the study end date, (columns 72-73) was the status that was used to place the employees into one of four employment categories - active, transferred, retired, and terminated - for the study.

The work records should represent a complete work history for each of the employees in the exposed study population while he/she was working at the Krummrich plant. All of the major fields (start date, department, jobtitle, and time) were abstracted from personnel records from the Krummrich plant. The jobclass codes were not recorded on the personnel records, but were developed later for the MEHI system. However, the jobclass codes were not routinely entered on the work records that were sent to you. This was an oversight on my part, but should not create any problems since the employees in the study would have reported only the jobtitles and not the jobclass codes when answering the occupational questionnaire that was administered during the study. Furthermore, the MEHI Job ID table, that contains the jobclass codes for each job in the plant, presently has a few discrepancies and is being revised by the Krummrich plant industrial hygienists. Once this task has been completed, I will send you a copy of the jobclass codes that correspond to the jobtitles listed on the work records. One last item that should be mentioned is the acronym 'LDW' that occasionally appears in columns 58-60. This acronym represents the Last Day Worked and is used to distinguish between the actual last day worked by the employee and his/her official termination date.

More information concerning MEHI header and work records can be found in an earlier letter (03/14/86) that I sent to you. However, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Leet

Terry L. Leet
Epidemiologist

Enclosure

cc: W.R. Gaffey
J.H. Spraul
Dan Hryhorczuk - Northwestern University